

Manzanar Relocation Area
Manzanar, California
January 3, 1943

Dear Walt,

It was good to hear from you again. I am very happy to know that you will be working for the Social Security Board. Keep busy always, won't you. Every hour of good work done makes victory for our side a closer reality. I really wish that I could be of some service. As you know, we Nisei are put into the 4-C classification with aliens even though we are citizens because of our Japanese names and faces. This will have to change soon.

A short time ago, I thought that I had a good opportunity to get into the United States Army as a Private. If I had met the qualifications, I could have become a servant of our country. I would have had an opportunity to serve overseas. Darn the bad luck! I didn't know enough of the Japanese language. You see, I speak it very, very poorly, and I cannot read or write Japanese words except my name. My knowledge was not sufficient to allow me to go to a training center and thence overseas. My chance was lost because

when I was younger, I did not try to learn the Japanese language. How I rue my lack of initiative now.

Now, my only chance is to help with the reconstruction ~~for~~ period which will follow our victory. I have decided to drop my endeavors in an engineering line so that I can help in the Post-War America.

In two months or so, my records will be investigated and cleared by the F.B.I. and other Federal authorities and I shall be free to leave this camp. Although I have no money, I shall try to get a job someplace and try to equip myself for my future work. I think that I shall try to go to Pennsylvania to work. Perhaps later, I can help. Perhaps later, I can erase the stigma which my face and name bring forth. I've got to make good. I shall.

I hope that you enjoyed a relatively enjoyable holiday season. May the future years bring you much happiness and may this war end as soon as possible so that more lives may not be lost.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Kusuda